

CIA, State Department Rapped for 'Thought Control' Policies

To the Editor: Robert W. Smith usually misses the point in any discussion pertaining to politics, liberals, universities, and Viet Nam. One silly and shocking distortion must be corrected in Smith's column of May 8 on the CIA. He writes that "too few people realize its purely information-gathering role."

The CIA has influenced the American public to see the war in Viet Nam and the interventions in South America as the State Department thinks they should be seen. The New York Times revealed a few weeks ago what has been known to a few of us for many years, that the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology was established and financed by the CIA. Here are a few articles and books placed in the hands of unsuspecting readers by its staff:

1. Its director, Dr. William E. Griffith, a former CIA assistant director, has been interviewed twice this past year by the editors of the Readers Digest, the last in April, 1966.

2. Herbert Ritvo, a professor there, published the New Soviet Society for the New Leader in 1962.

3. On Feb. 24, 1966 The

Reporter magazine published an article on the National Liberation Front by Douglas Pike after a year of study with the CIA.

4. George A. Carver Jr. published an article in the April issue of Foreign Affairs. He works for the CIA, but this was not revealed to the readers.

These four examples have in common the view that China directs Hanoi, that Hanoi directs the National Liberation Front and that NLF directs the Viet Cong.

This is the State Department line and it is a cruel simplification that explains and justifies some of the silly and bloody U.S. massacres of Asian peasants.

It makes me angry to read these articles, knowing the authors are secretly paid to say it.

It angers me when writers and journalists use the perfumes of idealism and "CIA-sponsored research" to cover lies. — James C. White, Minneapolis.

Editor's Note: The sentence immediately before the one which reader White quotes referred to the CIA's "image as an operational, cloak-and-dagger outfit." Smith says he thought he was clearly indicating the existence of two roles for the CIA — the "operational" and the "purely information-gathering," both of which, he insists, are part of the agency's function.